

## Section Summary

### THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

After World War I, millions of African Americans left the South to find a better life in the North. In New York, Chicago, and Detroit, they found good-paying jobs, a middle class of African American professionals, and a growing political voice. About 200,000 migrants from the South and immigrants from the Caribbean settled in New York City's Harlem neighborhood. One of these immigrants was a Jamaican named **Marcus Garvey**. Seeing that blacks were treated poorly everywhere, he created a "Back to Africa" movement and urged black unity and separation of the races.

The 1920s saw the birth of a new musical form, **jazz**. Jazz is a truly indigenous American music. It emerged in the South as a combination of African American and European musical styles. Jazz became famous around the world thanks to the talents of musicians such as trumpet player **Louis Armstrong**. Singer **Bessie Smith** was so popular that she became the highest-paid African American entertainer of the 1920s.

The decade also saw the **Harlem Renaissance**, an outpouring of art and literature that explored the African American experience. Among its most famous writers was **Claude McKay**, whose novels and poems were militant calls for action. **Langston Hughes** celebrated African American culture. **Zora Neale Hurston** wrote about women's desire for independence.

The Great Depression ended the Harlem Renaissance. However, the pride and unity it created provided a foundation for the future civil rights movement.

### Review Questions

1. Why did many African Americans migrate north?

---

---

---

---

2. What was the "Back to Africa" movement?

---

---

---

---

### READING CHECK

Who was the highest-paid African American entertainer of the 1920s?

---

---

---

### VOCABULARY STRATEGY

Find the word *indigenous* in the underlined sentence. What do you think it means? Circle words, phrases, or sentences in the surrounding paragraph to help you define *indigenous*.

---

---

---

### READING SKILL

**Identify Main Ideas** What was the Harlem Renaissance?

---

---

---